

## Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 217267

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 217267

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION NEW DELHI INFO DACCA ISLAMABAD PEKING USUN  
FROM SECSTATE NOV 3

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 217267

E.O. 11562:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN

SUBJ: INDIAN FOREIGN SECRETARY'S CALL ON THE SECRETARY

1. SUMMARY. INDIAN FOREIGN SECRETARY KEWAL SINGH PAID  
BRIEF CALL ON SECRETARY NOVEMBER 1. AMBASSADOR KAUL,  
SISCO AND LAINGEN SAT IN. SINGH EXPRESSED APPRECIATION  
FOR US UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT IN EVOLUTION SIMLA PROCESS  
SOUTH ASIA, REAFFIRMED INDIA'S DESIRE FOR PEACE WITH  
PAKISTAN AND RESPECT FOR ITS INTEGRITY, AND EXPRESSED  
CONFIDENCE IN EVOLUTION US-INDIAN RELATIONS. ALSO EXPRESS-  
ED HOPE US WOULD LOOK FOR OPPORTUNITIES ENCOURAGE BHUTTO  
TOWARD ESTABLISHING DIALOGUE WITH MUJIB. SECRETARY EX-  
PRESSED HIS OWN CONFIDENCE IN FUTURE US-INDIAN RELATIONS  
AND SAID HE WOULD USE OCCASION OF UPCOMING BRIEF STOP-  
OVER ISLAMABAD TO TALK WITH BHUTTO ABOUT HIS POSITION  
ON BANGLADESH. SECRETARY ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT HIS STOP  
IN ISLAMABAD WAS NOT SPECIAL VISIT TO PAKISTAN BUT SIMPLY  
A STOPOVER ENROUTE PEKING. CURRENT MOVEMENT USS HANCOCK  
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 217267

IN INDIAN OCEAN COVERED SEPTTEL. END SUMMARY.

2. SINGH OPENED BY SAYING HE WAS DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO SECRETARY  
FOR RECEIVING HIM DESPITE ENORMOUS PRESSURES ON SEC-  
RETARY'S SCHEDULE DURING UNUSUALLY HECTIC WEEK. SEC-

RETARY RESPONDED THAT HE HAD LOOKED FORWARD TO MEETING SINGH, ADDING THAT RELATIONS WITH INDIA WERE VITAL ASPECT OF US POLICY. SINGH EXPRESSED HIS VIEW THAT SECRETARY'S RECEIVING HIM AT SHORT NOTICE WAS, TO HIM, PROOF OF THAT STATEMENT.

3. SECRETARY SAID HE WANTED TO EXPRESS REGRET THAT HE COULD NOT GO TO DELHI DURING UPCOMING TRAVEL THROUGH AREA. AS IT WAS HIS STOP IN ISLAMABAD WAS SIMPLY OVERNIGHT STOP ON WAY TO KING AND NOT SPECIAL VISIT TO PAKISTAN. IT WAS SIMPLY A PRODUCT OF FACT HE HAD TO STAY OVERNIGHT SOMEWHERE WITHIN RANGE OF PEKING. THERE WAS NO INTENTION TO SHOW A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH PAKISTAN. FOCUS OF SUCH DISCUSSION AS MIGHT TAKE PLACE WOULD BE LESS ON SUBCONTINENT THAN ON MIDDLE EAST, WHERE IF ANYTHING PAKISTAN PLAYS VERY PERIPHERAL ROLE HE WOULD, OF COURSE, KEEP INDIA INFORMED OF ANY DISCUSSION THAT DID TAKE PLACE RELATING TO SUBCONTINENT.

4. SECRETARY NOTED THAT WE HAD INFORMED GOI THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY SISCO WOULD BE HAPPY TO TRAVEL TO DELHI FROM ISLAMABAD TO BRIEF GOI ON SECRETARY'S TRAVEL S THROGH MIDDLE EAST. SISCO REAFFIRMED THIS, NOTING THAT US WOULD UNDERSTAND IF VISIT WERE NOT FELT APPROPRIATE BY GOI BUT THAT HIS OWN SCHEDULING WOULD REQUIRE HIM TO KNOW PROMPTLY ABOUT GOI DESIRES.

5. SINGH OFFERED HIS CONGRATULATIONS AND ADMIRATION TO SECRETARY FOR NUMBER OF INITIATIVES TAKEN BY US DURING MIDDLE EAST CRISIS. INDIA APPRECIATED ROLE PLAYED BY BOTH US AND USSR AND IF AT ANY STAGE INDIA COULD BE OF SERVICE US COULD COUNT ON INDIA. SECRETARY NOTED AMB. KAUL HAD BEEN VERY KIND EARLY IN CRISIS TO RAISE WITH HIM HIS OWN VIEWS AND WHAT HAD DEVELOPED WAS VERY CLOSE TO WHAT HE AND AMB. HAD TALKED ABOUT AT THAT EARLY STAGE.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 217267

6. SINGH THEN TURNED TO SUBCONTINENT,NOTING GOI'S ENCOURAGEMENT OVER DELHI AGREEMENT IN SEPTEMBER ON REPATRIATION PROCESS WHERE MESSAGES FROM USG HAD MADE ALL THE DIFFERENCE. REPATRIATION PROCESS NOW GOING ON; THERE WERE PROBLEMS BUT THESE WERE TO BE EXPECTED AND HE WAS OPTIMISTIC.

7. SINGH SAID HE WAS SURE, HOWEVER, THERE WOULD BE PROBLEMS IN CONNECTION WITH DISPOSITION OF 195 POWS TO BE RETAINED ON WAR CRIMES CHARGES. INDIA EARNESTLY HOPED PAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH WOULD BE ABLE TO

START DIRECT DIALOGUE SINCE INDIA PREFERRED NOT TO BE IN

THE MIDDLE. RECOGNITION OF BANGLADESH BY BHUTTO WOULD FACILITATE THIS. SECRETARY COMMENTED THAT HE HAD HAD IMPRESSION FROM BHUTTO DURING WASHINGTON VISIT THAT BHUTTO WAS READY IN PRINCIPLE TO MOVE ON THIS, WHILE MAKING NOISES ABOUT HIS POLITICAL PROBLEMS ALL THE WAY. SECRETARY SAID HE WOULD BE GLAD TO DISCUSS SITUATION WITH BHUTTO IN ISLAMABAD.

8. SINGH SAID HE WANTED TO REASSURE SECRETARY THAT NOTHING WAS CLOSER TO INDIA'S HEART THAN PEACE IN SOUTH ASIA IN WHICH INDIA, PAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH WORK TOGETHER. SECRETARY SAID NOTHING WOULD SUIT US BETTER THAN THIS; WHEN USG COULD BE HELPFUL IN REASONABLY USEFUL WAY, IT WAS READY TO DO SO.

9. SINGH RECALLED FOREIGN MINISTER'S RECENT TALKS IN WASHINGTON WITH SECRETARY, FROM WHICH FOREIGN MINISTER OPTIMISTIC ABOUT US-INDIAN RELATIONS. SECRETARY SAID FRUITFUL EVOLUTION IN THAT RELATIONSHIP WAS ALSO BASIC USG POLICY. THERE WERE NO SIGNIFICANT CONFLICTS OF INTEREST BETWEEN INDIA AND US AND THERE WERE MANY COMPATIBLE ONES SO THERE WAS NO REASON WHY WE COULD NOT GIVE EFFECT TO HOPE OF BETTER RELATIONS.

10. SINGH AGAIN REAFFIRMED INDIA'S DESIRE FOR BETTER RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN, NOTING THIS WAS IN INDIA'S OWN NATIONAL INTEREST. HE WAS GRATEFUL THAT SECRETARY HAD CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 217267

EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS USE ITS OWN INFLUENCE TOWARD PEACE IN SOUTH ASIA AT APPROPRIATE MOMENTS. SECRETARY SAID THERE SHOULD BE NO QUESTION OF THAT AND SAID HE WOULD TALK IN THIS SENSE TO BHUTTO. IF THERE WAS ANYTHING SPECIFIC THAT INDIA MIGHT SUGGEST, HE HOPED GOI WOULD COMMUNICATE IT TO HIM BEFORE HE ARRIVED IN ISLAMABAD.

11. SINGH SAID THERE WAS ONE SPECIFIC SUGGESTION HE WOULD MAKE IN THIS RESPECT. HE RECALLED THAT DURING TALKS IN ISLAMABAD WITH BHUTTO IN AUGUST, BHUTTO HAD SAID THAT ONCE REPATRIATION PROCESS WAS UNDER WAY AND GOING WELL HE WOULD BE THINKING WHAT HE MIGHT DO TO SWEETEN THE PROCESS. AS EXAMPLE, HE HAD SAID PERHAPS HE MIGHT ASK CHINA NOT TO USE VETO AGAINST BANGLADESH UN MEMBERSHIP. IN FACT REPATRIATION WAS WELL UNDER WAY BUT BHUTTO HAD DECIDED FOR HIS OWN REASONS HE COULD NOT TAKE STEP HE HAD MENTIONED. SECRETARY RESPONDED THAT HE WOULD HAVE OPPORTUNITY IN CHINA AS WELL AS ISLAMABAD TO EXPRESS HIS UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT

SINGH HAD SAID ABOUT INDIA'S INTEREST IN A PROCESS OF NORMALIZATION IN SOUTH ASIA. SINGH INDICATED INTEREST OF INDIA IN MORE NORMAL RELATIONS WITH CHINA AS WELL AS

PAKISTAN. HOWEVER, HE CONFESSED TO BEING SOME TIMES CONFUSED BY CHINESE ATTITUDES, CITING CURRENT DIFFICULTIES WITH CHINESE OVER TRAVEL BY DALAI LAMA FROM INDIA TO EUROPE. DALAI LAMA HAD CAREFULLY ABIDED BY ASSURANCES INDIA HAD OBTAINED FROM HIM WHEN HE FIRST CAME TO INDIA THAT HE WOULD NOT INDULGE IN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. DESPITE THAT AND DESPITE ASSURANCES GOI HAD OBTAINED PRIOR TO DALAI LAMA'S CURRENT EUROPEAN TRIP, CHINESE CONTINUED TO EXPRESS STRONG COMPLAINTS IN DELHI. SECRETARY RESPONDED THAT HIS EXPERIENCES WITH CHINESE WOULD SUGGEST THAT INCIDENTS SUCH AS THESE ARE SYMPTOMS AND NOT THE CAUSES OF UNDERLYING ATTITUDES AND THAT WHEN CHINA WAS READY TO MOVE ON AN ISSUE THEY WOULD NOT BE DETERRED BY SUCH THINGS.

12. AT END OF CONVERSATION SECRETARY AGAIN EMPHASIZED THAT HIS STOP IN ISLAMABAD WAS PURELY OVERNIGHT STOP NECESSITATED BY PEKING TRAVEL. HE RECALLED THAT CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 217267

FOREIGN MINISTER SWARAN SINGH HAD EXTENDED VERY KIND INVITATION TO HIM TO VISIT DELHI AND HE INTENDED TO AVAIL HIMSELF OF THAT AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY, ALMOST CERTAINLY AT SOME POINT DURING THE NEXT YEAR.

13. AMB. KAUL, IN BRIEF CLOSING REFERENCE TO MIDDLE EAST, EXPRESSED HOPE THAT US AND INDIAN PERM REPS AT UN COULD KEEP IN CLOSER TOUCH. HE THOUGHT THIS WOULD HELP BOTH IN CONTEXT BILATERAL RELATIONS AND IN MIDDLE EAST CRISIS. SECRETARY SAID HE AGREED THOROUGHLY AND ASKED MR. SISCO MAKE SURE THAT OUR STANDING INTENTIONS IN THAT RESPECT WERE REAFFIRMED IMMEDIATELY. KISSINGER UNQUOTE RUSH

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